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Ventnor Urban District Council

THE
ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
INCLUDING THE
REPORT OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH
INSPECTOR
FOR THE YEAR 1964

THE VENTNOR URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL, VENTNOR, ISLE OF WIGHT

THE ANNUAL REPORT OF
THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
including the report of
THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR
FOR THE YEAR 1964

MEMBERS OF THE HEALTH COMMITTEE

Chairman: Councillor Mrs. F.E. Ingram

Councillors Miss D.L. Lake, Miss B.E.M. Saunders, W. Burden,
G.F.J. Rendall, J.P., W. Rimmer.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS

Medical Officer of Health

D.W. Quantrill, M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.,
D.P.H., D.T.M. & H., D.(Obst).R.C.O.G.

Office: County Hall, Newport, I.W.
Telephone: NEWPORT, 2261.

Public Health Inspector

J.D. Hadden, A.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.
Resigned August, 1964

E.H. Evans, A.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.
Commenced duties October, 1964

Clerk

Mrs. D. Morris

Rodent Operative

Mr. R. Norman

VENTNOR URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health For the Year Ended 31st December, 1964

To the Chairman and Members of the
Ventnor Urban District Council

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for 1964 in accordance with the direction of the Minister of Health.

Vital Statistics

There has been no significant change in the population. There were 102 deaths and the comparative death rate (10.5) is the lowest recorded for ten years and compares favourably with the national figure (12.2).

I am also able to report that there were no infant deaths which is also a record for the last ten years. There were no maternal deaths.

Causes of Death

Stroke, coronary thrombosis, other heart diseases and cancer were the causes of almost half the deaths.

Infectious Diseases

Prevention of Food Poisoning

Food is poisonous when it is infected with harmful bacteria. Typhoid fever is one of the most serious forms of this type of infection and, as is well known, an epidemic occurred recently in Aberdeen.

There are, however, many other less serious forms of food poisoning which are very common indeed but rarely notified. It is usually quite wrong to blame gastro intestinal upsets on to "a chill on the stomach" "a change of water" or "gastric flu". The most likely cause is infection due to faulty hygiene in the production or handling of food.

Since the Aberdeen epidemic there has been an increasing interest in clean food. We in Ventnor, however, can take pride in the fact that we were a move ahead! The Ventnor clean food campaign was initiated by your Public Health Inspector, Mr. J.D. Hadden in the previous year. This campaign has had considerable support from hoteliers and caterers in the town and it has been particularly rewarding to see for example, the improvements that have been made in many hotel and guest house kitchens. There is also an excellent liaison between managers and proprietors on the one hand and the Health Department on the other.

The standards of food hygiene in this town already compare favourably with other resorts but the object is to have standards in Ventnor that are second to none and we need the utmost support not only from the business people concerned but also from the general public. Residents and visitors should support establishments having good hygiene and should withhold their custom from any hotel, guest house, cafe, restaurant or food shop where there is negligence.

Unfortunately Mr. Hadden left us during the year to take up another appointment. Mr. Evans, his successor, is, however, particularly interested and has had special experience in this field. He has already introduced a scheme for more frequent visits to the hotels and guest houses where his advice and help are welcomed.

Measles

Only five cases of measles were notified. This has been a fairly mild

/condition

condition in recent years. A vaccine has now been produced which could control this disease in the same way that we have almost eradicated diphtheria and poliomyelitis. If measles became more virulent at any time such a vaccine would be particularly valuable.

German Measles

This is not a notifiable disease but it is known that a number of cases occurred during the year. It is probably the mildest of infectious diseases but in certain circumstances it can have disastrous consequences. There are still far too many people who do not realise that if a woman contracts this disease during the first three months of pregnancy, the baby may suffer from serious disabilities such as deafness, an abnormal heart and serious eye defects. It is important therefore, that women in early pregnancy, especially those who have not had this disease, should avoid contact with anyone who has it. If they are unfortunate enough to run the risk of infection they should inform their doctor immediately.

Winter Vomiting

During the latter part of the year there were many cases of what is known as Winter Vomiting. This is an infectious condition said to be caused by a virus and is characterised by severe vomiting. There is usually complete recovery in twenty-four hours. The method of transmission has not been discovered but it does not appear to be associated with infected food. It is probably spread in the same way as measles or the common cold, i.e. by droplet infection.

Kiss of Life

In a seaside resort one is specially concerned with the problem of drowning accidents. Lives can be saved by artificial respiration. Therefore, just before the holiday season commenced, the public were given an opportunity to learn the most effective technique.

An excellent colour film demonstrating mouth-to-mouth resuscitation was shown in the Town Hall. This was followed by demonstrations on a model by officers of the St. John Ambulance Brigade. There was a good attendance.

Acknowledgements

As already reported, Mr. Hadden left us during the year and I should like to record my appreciation of his enthusiasm and loyalty.

I welcome Mr. E.H. Evans who has taken up his duties with great interest and made an excellent start.

The work of Mrs. Morris, the departmental clerk and Mr. Norman the Rodent Operative, has again been appreciated.

I conclude by thanking the members of the Health Committee for their encouragement and support which has greatly helped me in my task.

Yours faithfully,

D.W. QUANTRILL,

Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS1. GENERAL

Total hours of sunshine during 1964	1,711.7 hours
Total rainfall during 1964	30.93 inches
Area in acres	3,562
Number of inhabited houses (at 31.3.65)	1,959
Rateable value (at 1.4.64)	£236,527
Sum represented by ld. rate (1963/64)	£925

2. VITAL

Population (Registrar General's estimate)	6,200
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Births

	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>Total</u>
Number of live legitimate births	58	32	90
Number of live illegitimate births	3	3	6
Live birth rate for 1,000 of estimated resident population			15.5
Comparative factor (births)			1.45
Comparative birth rate			22.5
Live birth rate for 1,000 in England and Wales			18.4 (Prov.)
Number of legitimate stillbirths	1	2	3
Number of illegitimate stillbirths	2	-	2
Stillbirth rate per 1,000 live and stillbirths			49.5
Total live and stillbirths			101
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births			6.2

Deaths

Total number of deaths	45	57	102
Crude death rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population			16.4
Comparative factor (deaths)			0.64
Comparative death rate			10.5
Death rate in England and Wales			11.3 (Prov.)
Number of deaths of legitimate infants under one year of age	-	-	Nil
Number of deaths of illegitimate infants under one year of age	-	-	Nil
Death rate of all infants per 1,000 live births			Nil
Death rate of legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births			Nil
Death rate of illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births			Nil
Infant mortality rate (England and Wales)			20.0 (Prov.)
Neo-natal mortality rate for 1,000 live births			Nil
Early neo-natal mortality rate per 1,000 live births			Nil
Perinatal mortality rate per 1,000 total live and stillbirths			49.5
Maternal deaths (including abortion)			Nil
Maternal mortality rate per 1,000 live and stillbirths			Nil

CAUSES OF DEATH

							<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	...	...	...	...	...	- (1)	- (-)
Tuberculosis, other	...	...	...	...	...	...	- (-)	- (-)
Syphilitic disease	...	...	...	...	...	...	1 (-)	- (-)
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	...	- (-)	- (-)
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	...	- (-)	- (-)
Meningococcal Infections	...	...	...	...	...	...	- (-)	- (-)
Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	- (-)	- (-)
Measles	...	...	...	...	...	...	- (-)	- (-)
Other infective and parasitic diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	- (-)	- (-)
Malignant neoplasm - Stomach	..	...	...	...	...	...	- (4)	2 (1)
" " - lung and bronchus	...	...	...	...	...	...	2 (4)	- (-)
" " -breast	..	...	...	...	...	...	- (-)	5 (4)
" " - uterus	..	...	...	...	...	...	- (-)	- (3)
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	..	...	...	...	...	...	3 (4)	4 (3)
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	...	...	...	...	...	...	1 (-)	- (-)
Diabetes	...	...	...	...	...	...	- (-)	1 (-)
Vascular lesions of nervous system	.	...	...	...	...	...	5 (7)	11 (19)
Coronary disease, angina	...	...	...	...	...	...	14 (20)	6 (11)
Hypertension with heart disease	...	...	...	...	...	...	- (1)	2 (1)
Other heart disease	...	...	...	...	...	...	3 (2)	9 (5)
Other circulatory disease	...	...	...	...	...	...	5 (6)	5 (6)
Influenza	...	...	...	...	...	...	- (-)	- (-)
Pneumonia	..	...	...	...	...	...	1 (5)	1 (2)
Bronchitis	..	...	...	...	...	...	5 (3)	1 (3)
Other diseases of respiratory system	...	...	...	...	...	...	- (4)	1 (1)
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	...	...	...	...	- (2)	1 (-)
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	..	...	...	...	...	...	- (-)	- (-)
Nephritis, nephrosis	...	...	...	...	...	...	- (-)	- (1)
Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	...	...	...	...	1 (1)	- (-)
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...	...	...	...	...	...	- (-)	- (-)
Congenital malformations	...	...	...	...	...	...	1 (-)	- (-)
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	2 (3)	6 (4)
Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	...	...	...	...	- (1)	- (-)
All other accidents	...	...	...	...	...	...	1 (1)	1 (3)
Suicide	...	...	...	...	...	...	- (-)	1 (1)
Homicide and operations of war	...	...	...	...	...	...	- (-)	- (-)
							<u>45 (69)</u>	<u>57 (68)</u>

Note: Figures for 1963 are entered in brackets.

FOOD POISONING OUTBREAKS

Total number of outbreaks	NIL
Number of cases	NIL
Number of deaths	NIL

INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES - From the weekly returns of head teachers:

German measles	1
Chickenpox	6
Measles	9
Mumps	101
Scarlet Fever	1
Whooping Cough	1
Influenza	1
	120

TUBERCULOSIS

Age Period	Total	<u>New Cases</u>		Total	<u>Deaths</u>	
		Pulm. M. F.	Non-Pulm. M. F.		Pulm. M. F.	Non-Pulm. M. F.
Under 1	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 and under 5	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 " " 10	-	-	-	-	-	-
10 " " 15	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 " " 20	-	-	-	-	-	-
20 " " 25	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 " " 30	-	-	-	-	-	-
35 " " 45	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 " " 55	-	-	-	-	-	-
55 " " 65	2	1	1	-	-	-
65 " " 75	-	-	-	-	-	-
75 and over	2	-	2	-	-	-
	* 4	1	3	-	-	-

* This total includes one transfer from the mainland. One patient on the Tuberculosis Register died of another cause.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1944

Number of samples taken during 1964	20
Number of samples found to be positive for Tubercle Bacillus	-
Number of samples in which Brucella Abortus was isolated	-

VENTNOR URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Salisbury Gardens,

Ventnor, I.W.

To the Chairman and Members of
the Ventnor Urban District Council

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my annual report on the sanitary circumstances of the Urban District, and I am indebted to Dr. D.W. Quantrill for the privilege of presenting this section of the report.

The bulk of the work outlined in this report relates to the work carried out by my predecessor Mr. J.D. Hadden.

The lectures to Hoteliers on Hygienic Food Handling by Dr. D.W. Quantrill and Mr. Hadden proved very instructive and eighteen hoteliers were successful in passing the examination set by the St. John Ambulance Association.

The Rodent Control Contract Scheme which commenced in August, 1963 has now become a regular part of the Department's work, and present a record of steady increase in the number of members.

I take this opportunity to thank Mr. R. Norman, the Rodent Operative for the very efficient way he has carried out his duties, and to express my appreciation to Mrs. D. Morris for the very able way in which she carries out her many and varied duties, and for the invaluable support she has given to me.

May I finally express my thanks to the Members of the Council for their consideration in every way, and to acknowledge the help I have received from my fellow officers whenever I had occasion to ask for their advice or assistance.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

ERIC H. EVANS,

Public Health Inspector.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREASummary of Inspections and Visits

Public Health Acts	57
Public Health Acts (reinspections)	89
Housing Acts	33
Housing Acts (reinspections)	35
Miscellaneous Housing Visits	51
Houses in Multiple Occupation	27
Nuisances	103
Offices, Shops & Railway Premises Act	10
Infectious Diseases	4
Water Supply	36
Clean Air Act	1
Caravans	85
Food Premises	395
Shops Act	42
Prevention of Damage by Pests Act	3466 *
Infestations	12
Interviews, etc.	156
Drainage	184
Refuse Collection	6
Refuse Disposal	7
Sanitary Conveniences	10
Factories Act	11
Piggeries and Stables	6
Licensed Premises	37
Schools	1
Health Education	3
Typhoid Fever Investigations	49

4916

* This figure includes 3401 visits made by the Rodent Operative.

Complaints

Three hundred and seventy four complaints as under were received and dealt with :-

Food	21
Rodent Control	197
Insect Pests	40
Housing Defects	21
Drainage	43
Refuse	7
Miscellaneous	17
Houses in Multiple Occupation	3
Housing	9
Sanitary Conveniences	2
Public Health Nuisances	6
Water Supply	7
Factories Act	1

374

Statutory Notices

	<u>Served</u>	<u>Complied with by Owner</u>
Public Health Act, 1936 (Section 45)	1	1
Public Health Act, 1936 (Section 39)	10	10
Public Health Act, 1936 (Section 93)	2	2

Informal Notices

Public Health Act, 1936	15	9
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Water Supply(a) Public Supply

The Urban District is supplied by the Isle of Wight Water Board from the following sources :-

- (a) A deep well in the Waterworks, Mitchell Avenue, Ventnor.
- (b) A supply of surface water from the Railway Tunnel.
- (c) A spring at Wroxall.
- (d) Two springs at St. Lawrence.

The water is chlorinated but not filtered and is liable to no plumbosolvent action.

The sampling of water at source and during treatment is the responsibility of the Water Board.

Copies of the Public Health Laboratory reports are supplied to the County Medical Officer of Health and Public Health Inspector.

Given below is a summary of results obtained during the year :-

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Untreated Water</u>	<u>Treated Water</u>
Satisfactory	3	69
Suspicious	-	1
Unsatisfactory	1	3

(b) Private Supplies

Some properties have private supplies of water from springs or wells. Thirty-eight samples were taken during the year.

Results were :-

<u>Grade</u>	
Satisfactory	27
Unsatisfactory	8
Suspicious	3

Children's Paddling Pool, Eastern Esplanade

The popularity of this pool was maintained and the safety of the users ensured by twice daily chlorination.

Private Swimming Pools

There are two private swimming pools within the area. Ventnor Secondary Modern School has an open air pool, the water is obtained from the main water supply and a system of automatic chlorination is in operation.

Ventnor Towers Hotel is also provided with an open air pool, water being obtained from the mains with an automatic system of chlorination in operation.

Refuse Collection and Disposal

The refuse collection and disposal service is under the control of the Surveyor and a weekly collection of domestic refuse is maintained.

In the season a twice weekly collection is made from hotels and boarding houses, in this connection it would be advantageous to both the Council and hotelier alike if a paper sack system was more widely used.

Disposal is by means of a system of controlled tipping in a disused lime quarry and regular insecticidal spraying is carried out.

Frequent visits to the tip are made by the Rodent Operative which has kept the rodent population down to a small proportion.

Sewerage

In a hilly district such as Ventnor with contours varying from 0 to 450 ft. and with no level ground it is impracticable to provide a central sewage disposal plant.

The outlying village of Wroxall is sewered to a small disposal plant, the effluent being discharged into an adjacent stream.

Bonchurch at the eastern end of the district is served by :-

- (a) Cesspools
 - (b) Small septic tank installations
- except for one large establishment which has a private sewer discharging through a sea outfall.

St. Lawrence in the west is served by :-

- (a) Cesspools
- (b) Septic tanks
- (c) A limited number of properties are sewered to a small sewage plant.

Ventnor sewage is discharged to the sea from four outfalls. The Council operates a cesspool emptying service.

Infestations

Complaints of insect pests included :-

Flies	10
Cockroaches	10
Woodlice	1
Fleas	4
Ants	2
Wasps Nests	27

Treatment and eradication of the above insect pests was carried out by modern insecticides. A charge of 5/- was levied in respect of the destruction of wasps nests.

Rodent Control

Four hundred and thirteen premises were treated during the year, the Rodent Operative making 3401 visits, 1037 of which were for routine inspections. The annual testing and treatment of the Council's sewers was carried out, no infestations were found.

Contract Scheme

The Contract Scheme for Rodent Control relating to business premises has now been in operation since August, 1963 and an opportunity is now taken to assess the position.

At the end of the year fifty-four businesses were under contract, giving an income of £324.

The work involved in honouring the Council's side of the Contract is quite considerable, necessitating at least a monthly visit of inspection to each property, together with follow-up visits consequent on any signs of infestation being noted.

Housing

Number of dwelling houses found to be unfit for human habitation and represented under Section 16 of the Housing Act, 1957	Nil
Number of demolition orders made	1
Number of undertakings to carry out repairs accepted	Nil
Number of houses demolished	Nil
Number of premises made fit as a result of undertakings given by the owner.	Nil

Housing (cont.)

Number of premises made fit as a result of informal
action by the Local Authority or their officers 2

Council Housing

The Council own 226 houses and flats and at the end of the year there were 95 applicants for housing on the Council list.

Caravan Sites

There are two holiday caravan sites in the Urban District. In addition one individual caravan is used for this purpose. 85 visits were made to the caravan sites for the purpose of supervision and in connection with the issue of site licences.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD AND FOOD PREMISES

At the end of the year food premises in the district were classified as follows :-

Greengrocers	6
Bakehouses	4
Cafes, Snack Bars & Kiosks	42
Butchers	5
Sugar Confectioners	9
Flour Confectioners	7
Dairies	2
Fishmongers	3
Fried Fish Shops	3
Grocers	27
Licensed Premises	18
(other than private hotel licences)	

Food Premises Registered under Section 16
Food & Drugs Act, 1955

<u>Registered for the sale of ice cream:-</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Inspections</u>
Grocers	17	27
Confectioners	10	13
Kiosks	8	27
Fishmongers	1	2
Cafes, etc.	26	43

Registered for the preparation of sausages:-

Butchers	3	16
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Registered for the Preservation of Food
(by cooking)

Grocers	2	4
Fried Fish Shops	3	3
Fishmongers	1	2

Premises Registered under the Milk and Dairies
Regulations, 1959

Dairies	2	2
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Unsound Food

Unsound food surrendered for destruction included :-

1 lb. 12 ozs.	Tinned Fruit Preserve	14 lbs. 6 ozs.	Tinned Corned Beef
7½ lbs.	Jellied Eels		
34½ lbs.	Fresh Meat	20 lbs. 3 ozs.	Tinned Fruit
8 lbs.	Tinned Meat	1 lb.	Tinned Soup
9 lbs. 1 oz.	Tinned Vegetables	2 lbs. 14 ozs.	Tinned Fish
370 lbs.	Apples	344 lbs.	Onions.
81 lbs. 11 ozs.	Cooked Ham		

All unsound food is stained and buried on the refuse tip under supervision of the Public Health Inspector.

Food Inspection - Corned Beef

During the early stages of the Aberdeen Typhoid outbreak, following instructions from the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, 224 visits were made to all Food Establishments likely to hold stocks of corned beef.

51 tins of corned beef from the suspected batches were discovered and dealt with according to instructions.

Ice Cream

Sixty-two premises are registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955 for the sale of ice cream and in addition three premises were registered for the manufacture of loose ice cream. The rest obtained their supplies from larger manufacturers on the mainland or from a wholesale manufacturer from an adjoining district.

Food Sampling

The Isle of Wight County Council, as the Food and Drugs Authority, is responsible for sampling, and I am indebted to the Chief Inspector of Weights and Measures for the following information regarding samples taken during the year :-

<u>Article Sampled</u>	<u>Appropriate Tests</u>	<u>Number of Samples</u>		
		<u>Passed</u>	<u>Failed</u> (deficient in fat)	<u>Void</u>
<u>MILK</u>				
T.T. (Raw)	Fat	13	2	-
	Solids-not-fat	14	1	-
	Methylene blue	10	-	-
Pasteurised	Fat	-	-	-
	Solids-not-fat	-	-	-
	Methylene blue	14	-	-
	Phosphatase	14	-	-
<u>FOODSTUFFS</u>				
	<u>Number Taken</u>	<u>Number Unsatisfactory</u>		
Drinking Chocolate	1	-		
Seville Orange Marmalade	1	-		
Grapefruit Marmalade	1	-		
Aspirin Tablets	2	-		
Raspberry Seedless	1	1	(Composition satisfactory Label unsatis- factory) (minor infringement)	

Factories Acts, 1937 - 1959

1. Inspections for purpose of provisions as to health :-

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	1	-	-	-
Factories not included above in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authorities	22	11	1	-
Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authorities (excl.out-workers' premises)				
	23	11	1	NIL

2. Cases in which defects were found :-

Particulars		Number of cases in which defects were found			Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
		Found	Remedied	Referred	
To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector				
Want of cleanliness(S.1)	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	1	-	-	1	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act	-	-	-	-	-
	1	NIL	NIL	1	NIL

14.

Outwork

Nature of Work (1)	No. of outworkers in August required by Section 110 (1) (c) (2)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council (3)	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists (4)	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises (5)	Notices Served (6)
Stuffed Toys	17	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL

